

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES/D/HA:KHILL:ND
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P 271356Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148844

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, TS

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES

REF: TUNIS 4113

WE APPRECIATE REPORTING OF EMBASSY ON THIS UNFORTUNATE
AFFAIR. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED HUMAN
RIGHTS CONFERENCE HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR TARNISHING TUNISIA'S
IMAGE AS ONE OF THE MORE MODERATE COUNTRIES IN THE THIRD
WORLD WITH A RELATIVELY GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. WE FEEL
IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOT TO BE AWARE OF THE IMPRESSION
ITS ACTION AGAINST THE CONFERENCE HAS CREATED, AS A MEANS
OF PUTTING THE USG ON RECORD AND CAUTION AGAINST ANY
SIMILAR ACTION WHICH THE GOT MIGHT CONTEMPLATE TAKING IN
THE FUTURE AGAINST INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS. YOU
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SHOULD THEREFORE RAISE THE SUBJECT DURING YOUR NEXT CONVER-
SATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

--AS A FRIEND, WE WANTED THE GOT TO KNOW THAT THE MEETING
/ SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 10 AT THE AFRICA HOTEL HAD
BEEN PUBLICIZED IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE AS A HUMAN RIGHTS
CONFERENCE ; IT HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM LEGITIMATE

INTERNATIONAL GROUPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSE CONTACT ON
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. THE GOT'S ACTION IN BLOCKING
IT INEVITABLY WILL BE SEEN AS A BLOW AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS.

--WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOT WOULD AGREE IT WOULD BE MOST
UNFORTUNATE IF EVENTS SUCH AS THIS WERE TO TARNISH
TUNISIA'S PROGRESSIVE IMAGE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY RAISING CONCERN OVER CONTINUED
RESPECT FOR POLITICAL LIBERTY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

--WE HOPE THE GOT WILL TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT RE FUTURE
DECISIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE SUCH MATTERS.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Secure: OPEN
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